Copies of this annual report may be obtained from:
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Alberta Labour
506, 10808-99 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
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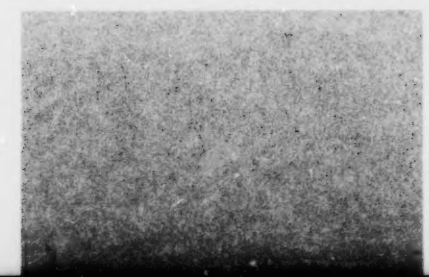
Annual Report
1989-90



Alberta
LABOUR

91-03955/

Alberta
LABOUR

Also responsible for
LABOUR RELATIONS BOARD
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
WOMEN'S SECRETARIAT
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON WOMEN'S ISSUES
PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Office of the Minister

103 Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6
Telephone 403 / 427-3664
Fax 403 / 422-9556

November 1990

The Honourable Dr. D. Carter
Speaker
Legislative Assembly of Alberta

Dear Sir:

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the Alberta Department of Labour for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1990.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine McCoy, Q.C.
Minister of Labour

Alberta
LABOUR

Office of the Deputy Minister

10th Floor, 10808-99 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5K 0G5 403 / 427-8305

November 1990

Honourable Elaine McCoy, Q.C.
Minister of Labour
103 Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

Dear Ms McCoy:

I am pleased to present the Annual Report for the Alberta Department of Labour for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1990.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin J. C. Ford
Deputy Minister

Legislation

The following statutes are administered by Alberta Labour:

Boilers and Pressure Vessels Act
Burial of the Dead Act
Department of Labour Act
Electrical Protection Act
Elevator and Fixed Conveyances Act
Employment Pension Plans Act
Employment Standards Code
Fire Prevention Act
Gas Protection Act
Individual's Rights Protection Act*
Industrial Wages Security Act
Labour Relations Code**
Plumbing and Drainage Act
Police Officers Collective Bargaining Act
Uniform Building Standards Act

* In accordance with section 18(1) of the Individual's Rights Protection Act, the Alberta Human Rights Commission submits a separate annual report to the Alberta Legislature.

** The Alberta Labour Relations Board submits a separate annual report to the Alberta Legislature.

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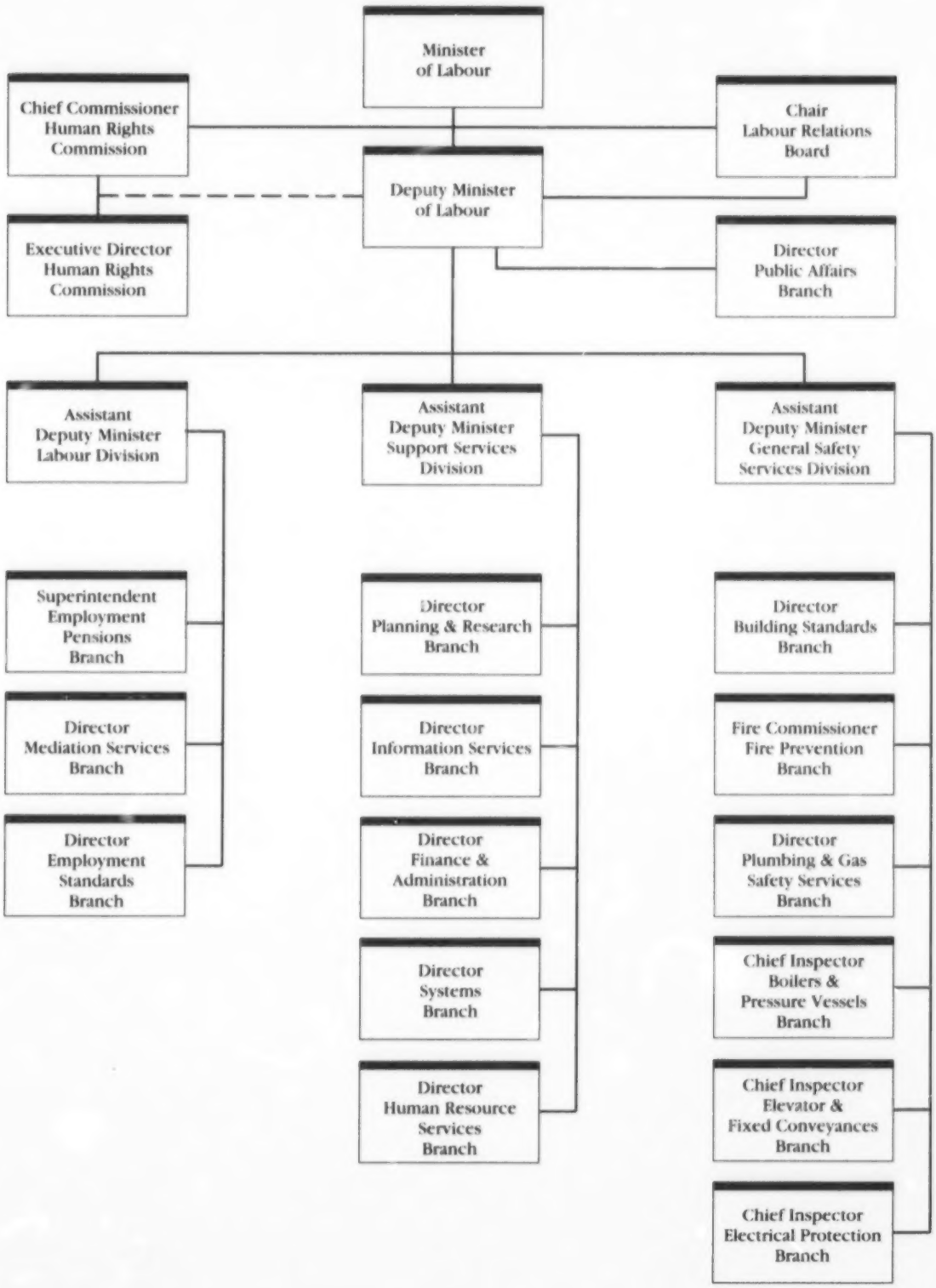
Organization Chart: Alberta Labour


Minister of Labour
Chief Commissioner Human Rights Commission
Chair Labour Relations Board
Deputy Minister of Labour
Executive Director Human Rights Commission
Director Public Affairs Branch
Assistant Deputy Minister Labour Division
Assistant Deputy Minister Support Services Division
Assistant Deputy Minister General Safety Services Division
Superintendent Employment Pensions Branch
Director Mediation Services Branch
Director Employment Standards Branch
Director Planning & Research Branch
Director Information Services Branch
Director Finance & Administration Branch
Director Systems Branch
Director Human Resource Services Branch
Director Building Standards Branch
Fire Commissioner Fire Prevention Branch
Director Plumbing & Gas Safety Services Branch
Chief Inspector Boilers & Pressure Vessels Branch
Chief Inspector Elevator & Fixed Conveyances Branch
Chief Inspector Electrical Protection Branch

Introduction

Alberta Labour strives to develop harmonious and productive relations between employers and employees, prevent and resolve disputes between employers and unions, administer private pension plan and public safety programs, and to administer Alberta's human rights legislation.

The Labour Division provides assistance in preventing and resolving labour disputes, regulates the administration of private pension plans, and administers legislation regulating minimum standards of employment.

The General Safety Services Division develops and administers safety standards which pertain to boilers and pressure vessels, elevators and fixed conveyances, gas, plumbing and electrical installations, and building and fire control.

The Support Services Division provides administrative support to the department and administers certain services to the general public.

The Alberta Labour Relations Board is an independent tribunal responsible for interpreting the Labour Relations Code and deciding on complaints and applications arising under the code. The board, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, comprises a full-time chair, three vice-chairs — two full-time and one part-time — and 20 representative members, 10 from labour and 10 from management. The annual report of the board is tabled separately before the Legislative Assembly.

The Alberta Human Rights Commission is responsible for promoting and safeguarding the spirit and principles embodied in the Individual's Rights Protection Act, Alberta's anti-discrimination legislation. It is composed of a chief commissioner and six commissioners, all of whom are appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. The annual report of the commission is tabled separately before the Legislative Assembly.

Labour Division

Through program delivery the Labour Division promotes the enhancement of positive relationships between employees and employers in Alberta.

Services include the education of employees and employers about their rights and obligations in the workplace, mediation of collective bargaining, preventive mediation, monitoring of pension plans, review of trust agreements, special employment programs, claims settlement, and dispute resolution.

Highlights: 1989-90

- The Employment Pensions Branch supervised 1,700 pension plans and examined 138 new plans.

- The Mediation Services Branch was active in assisting labour and management in the resolution of labour negotiations. There were no strikes in the public sector under the jurisdiction of the Labour Relations Code, and only seven strikes or lockouts in the private sector.

- Plans were finalized for the opening of a storefront operation at the Employment Standards Branch's regional office in Edmonton. The new facility will have a fully automated telephone information service.

- Employment Standards' Education Program implemented a new communications plan to better inform immigrants about their rights and obligations in the workplace. Also, a new multilingual brochure was produced in seven languages which will help Alberta's growing population of non-English speaking immigrants learn about the laws and regulations governing the workplace in the province.

- In January 1990, the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Labour Division was a member of the Canadian delegation to the United Nations for the presentation of Canada's second report to the Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Alberta and Canada were praised by the committee for their progressive efforts in promoting equality for women in the economic, social and political areas of life.

Employment Pensions Branch

The Employment Pensions Branch administers and enforces the Employment Pension Plans Act. The act's main purpose is to safeguard employee entitlements to benefits promised under private sector pension plans. The branch monitors pension plans to ensure that they are administered correctly and that plan funds are sufficient to cover earned benefits.

Alberta is a party to two agreements, one with the Government of Canada and the other involving those provinces having legislation similar to Alberta's. Both agreements provide for the reciprocal registration, audit, and inspection of pension plans. Where reciprocal agreements apply, the branch performs the duties of the other jurisdictions.

The branch is also the repository for trust agreements relative to employee benefit plans filed under section 154 of the Labour Relations Code. Filed trust agreements and amendments are reviewed for possible inadequacies or inconsistencies in their intent and purpose.

1989-90

- The branch responded to numerous requests for information and advice relating to the Employment Pension Plans Act and Regulation, and continued to ensure that pension plans were amended to comply with both this legislation and the most recent legislation of the Government of Canada.

- At the end of 1989-90, the branch was responsible for the supervision of 1,700 pension plans, 139 of which had been reviewed and were awaiting further documentation prior to receiving approval for registration. The branch also registered 1,182 amendments to supervised plans.

- A total of 138 new pension plans were examined, and 129 of these received a Certificate of Registration.

- Under the reciprocal agreement provision of the Employment Pension Plans Act, three plans were transferred to the jurisdiction of Alberta, and two were transferred from Alberta to other jurisdictions.

- During the year, 216 plans covering 2,016 employees were discontinued, and 154 of these plans, covering 243 members, were significant shareholder or executive plans. Eighteen plans, covering 512 employees, were discontinued because they merged with other existing pension plans, and the employees had their benefits transferred to the other registered plans. Forty plans, covering 486 employees, were discontinued because the companies had been dissolved or due to other financial problems. Fifteen plans, covering 306 members, were discontinued at the request of the plan sponsor. One hundred and six discontinued plans, covering 687 members, were replaced by registered retirement savings plans. In the past three years ending March 31, 1990, 533 plans, covering 3,099 members, have been discontinued and replaced by registered retirement savings plans.

- Pension plan trustees refunded $5.8 million in surplus pension monies to employers. In 11 terminating plans, $1.4 million in surplus pension monies was allocated to plan members. See Table on p.19.

Employment Standards Branch

The Employment Standards Branch ensures that employers and employees are aware of their rights and obligations regarding terms of employment in the workplace. The branch's legislative mandate is contained in the Employment Standards Code and the Industrial Wages Security Act.

The Employment Standards Code establishes minimum standards of employment including hours of work, overtime, payment of wages,

vacation and general holiday pay, notice of termination, and parental benefits. These provisions apply to most employees working in Alberta.

The Industrial Wages Security Act requires employers in the lumbering industry to post security with the branch to ensure wage protection for their employees. Branch activities in this area include claim registration, investigation and resolution, maintenance of the security account, and education programs for employers and employees.

Branch services are provided by four programs: Dispute Resolution/Compliance, Education, Special Employment, and Standards Development. These services are available through regional offices located in Calgary, Edmonton, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Red Deer, and St. Paul.

Dispute Resolution/Compliance

The Dispute Resolution/Compliance Program involves the investigation of claims registered by employees who allege that their employers are not complying with the provisions of the Employment Standards Code or Industrial Wages Security Act.

Education Program

The Education Program fosters greater awareness and understanding of the Employment Standards Code and regulations among employers and employees. The program conducts workshops and seminars, and makes information available at educational institutions, association conferences, and trade fairs. See Table on p.20 for a statistical review of education program activities for this year.

Special Employment Programs

Special Employment Programs are available to assist employers and employees who, due to unique employment situations, may require exemption from some provisions of the Employment Standards Code. The programs provide the flexibility necessary for employees and employers to enter into mutually beneficial work arrangements.

Standards Development

The Standards Development Program monitors standards in other jurisdictions and ensures that Alberta's standards are developed in a manner consistent with the needs of all Albertans. Most importantly the program ensures that the Employment Standards Code is applied consistently throughout the province.

1989-90

- Minor amendments to the code and its regulations included the addition of Alberta Family Day as a new general holiday and adjustments to the vacation and general holiday pay for employees in the construction and brush clearing industries.

- Plans were finalized to open a store front office in Edmonton in 1990 to help meet a growing demand for services. This facility will have telephone lines offering information 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

- Officers investigated over 9,000 claims of which 72 per cent were resolved within 90 days of receipt. See Table on p.20. There was a 27-per-cent increase in claims over last year with a corresponding increase in funds collected.

- Of the 590 orders of officer which were appealed to an Umpire during this period, 80 per cent were confirmed. See Table on p.20.

- The branch developed and implemented a communications plan for immigrant workers. The objectives of the plan were to:
  - make immigrant employees and employers better aware of branch services;
  - inform immigrant employees and employers of their rights and obligations in the workplace;
  - improve communication between immigrant associations and community assistance groups and the Employment Standards Branch.

This initiative resulted in contact being made with over 300 organizations who can assist new Albertans requiring information concerning the branch or its services.

- A new multilingual brochure outlining significant provisions of the code in Arabic, Chinese, French, Polish, Punjabi, Spanish, and Vietnamese was produced. Next year, this publication also will be available in Blackfoot and Cree.

- Alberta Family Day was celebrated as a new general holiday on February 19, 1990. Bulletins and newspaper advertisements notified Albertans of the new holiday and provided employers and employees with information regarding the code's general holiday and general holiday pay provisions.

- Increased forest industry activity resulted in increased branch activity. See Table on p.21.

- There were several requests for variations from the code's hours of work provisions. An increase in Scheme of Employment Contracts for Group Homes and Homemakers resulted in a reduction of individual employment contract approvals, thereby lessening the need for direct branch involvement. See Table p.20.

- The Manager of Special Employment Programs coordinated branch representation on Alberta Education attendance boards and regional panels dealing with school attendance problems. Branch staff advise these groups regarding infractions of the Adolescents & Young Persons Employment Regulation.

Mediation Services Branch

The Mediation Services Branch deals with mediation of collective bargaining impasses, preventive mediation, and grievance arbitration appointments. Branch staff in Calgary and Edmonton provide third party assistance to labour and management in preventing and resolving labour disputes, and assist in establishing effective relationships amongst employees, unions, and employers.

1989-90

- All disputes occurring in the public sector, under the jurisdiction of the Labour Relations Code, were resolved without job action.

- In the private sector, there were seven strikes or lockouts. Three of the strikes involved the Boilermakers Union, and both lockouts involved the United Food and Commercial Workers in the meat packing sector. For the first time in several years, the majority of disputes in the construction sector were concluded by collective agreements. Mediation was involved in many of these disputes.

Disputes centred on wages, job security, and benefits. Specific information on disputes is published in the Collective Bargaining Scene/ Labour Fact Book available from the Planning and Research Branch of Alberta Labour.

- The branch offered formal and informal preventive mediation programs and assistance to labour and management. Preventive mediation activity continued to increase in the Grievance Mediation area. Parties involved in this process find preventive mediation to be an expedient and effective way of grievance resolution, allowing them to avoid proceeding to arbitration.

- The Labour Relations Code gives the Director of Mediation the authority to appoint grievance arbitration board members, chairpersons, and single arbitrators. There were 35 appointments made, with an additional 25 requests concluded without the need of an appointment. Whenever possible, "new" arbitrators are introduced into the system; six new appointments were made this year.

- Mediators assisted in five college or university disputes on "good offices" appointments at the request of both parties involved in the collective bargaining. These appointments are granted as special requests for the services of a mediator without any legislative or contractual obligations relative to his or her assistance.

General Safety Services Division

The objective of the General Safety Services Division is to enhance safety through the coordinated delivery of programs encouraging and facilitating acceptable safety standards. The areas of responsibility and the programs administered by the division cover a broad range of activities, from the inspection of complex industrial installations to standards for materials and supplies. The division's programs involve the development of equipment and installation standards, public safety education, training, inspections, and certification of tradesmen, work permits and certificates, review of plans, investigations and support for municipalities. There are 13 regional offices in the province.

Highlights: 1989-90

- The division continued to implement its long range strategic plan for reconstituting the general safety system in Alberta. The division pursued this goal while continuing to provide services to an expanding number of clients.

The plan under implemention will change the legislative framework and the fundamentals of the information and administrative systems through which risk is mitigated in the general safety area. The role of decision makers in the system, including government, will be clarified and refined to better reflect the realities of building and related technologies in the 1990s.

- The division also completed the second part of the public review process for statutory change proposals and the preliminary stages of the comprehensive information system that will support partner roles under revised legislation.

- A cyclical review process was initiated for a number of safety codes impacting on virtually every Albertan. The Fire, Building, and Electrical Codes commenced their review cycles. The division coordinated the Alberta portion of this national process.

- The division continued to pursue its dual objective of maintaining risk management services at an acceptable level, while working to position Alberta's general safety system to cope with the speed and complexity of change in the next decade.

Boilers and Pressure Vessels Branch

The Boilers and Pressure Vessels Branch administers programs directed towards protection of life and property wherever pressure equipment is in use, including refineries, petrochemical plants, industrial plants, schools, hospitals, and vehicles used for transporting hazardous material under pressure. This goal is achieved by administering the Boilers and Pressure Vessels Act in a manner which encourages owners, designers, contractors, manufacturers, and servicing organizations to fulfil their responsibilities respecting the safe design, construction, maintenance, and operation of pressure vessels, boilers, and pressure piping systems.

The branch's major responsibilities are the review of pressure equipment designs to ensure they satisfy code standards; the provision of third party inspection services required by international standards; and the maintenance of a manufacturers certification system.

Through information seminars and newsletters, the branch promotes public safety and alerts industry to design and construction problems.

The branch administers certification examinations for power engineers and pressure welders and provides an accreditation program for organizations conducting welder performance qualification tests. Certification exams and accreditation programs ensure that the people operating pressure vessel equipment do so in a safe and competent manner.

The branch compiles statistics on specific types of accidents for use in the risk management program.

1989-90

- In response to the results of inspection programs worldwide indicating increasing deterioration of pressure vessel reliability and the current trend of extending equipment service life, the branch alerted industry to inspection and repair techniques used to ensure the continued safe operation of aging or severe service equipment. Several hundred repairs to restore the performance and safety of pressure equipment were completed by authorized organizations in Alberta.

- The branch encouraged and assisted companies in developing reliability programs. Such programs ensure safety and the proper operation of equipment. Alberta has the highest concentration per capita of boilers and pressure vessels in Canada. The branch is striving to have all major users of pressure vessel equipment implement reliability programs.

- To further enhance its monitoring of pressure vessel equipment, the branch updated its electronic information system. The data contained in this system identify equipment type, where it is being used, and years of service. This information improves the risk mitigation program by allowing for quick alerting of operators to potential equipment safety and operating problems.

- The branch administered 5,692 power engineer exams and 726 pressure welders exams, and issued 33 Certificates of Authorization to organizations conducting welder performance qualification tests.

- Branch staff participated in codes and standards development, providing input to the creation of a new code section for the design and construction of steam transmission lines — an operation of particular interest to Alberta due to the province's oil sands activity.

- Of the 33 accidents investigated by the branch, none involved fatalities. Although there is a high per capita concentration of pressure equipment in Alberta, accidents involving this equipment remain infrequent.

- The branch processed 197 Certificates of Authorization, bringing the total number of companies registered to 501.

- Branch services, along with technical support, inspire the confidence of local and international

clients which in turn fosters the development of Alberta's manufacturing industry. Alberta boiler and pressure vessel manufacturers supplied a broad range of complex and standard pressure vessels to local and export markets. Approximately 7,000 pressure vessels were constructed and 1,300 of these were built for export. The latter figure represents a 31-per-cent increase over the previous year.

There were several major projects involving the construction of boilers and pressure vessels to be used in Alberta, particularly in the pulp mill industry where several complex critical duty vessels were built.

Building Standards Branch

The Building Standards Branch operates programs directed toward safety for life, health, and property in (a) the design, construction, or occupancy of new buildings and (b) the alteration, reconstruction, demolition, removal, relocation, or change of occupancy classification of existing buildings.

The branch ensures the application of the standards set out in the Alberta Building Code. It does so largely through authorized municipalities which administer and enforce the code. Of the 371 municipalities in Alberta, 309 have requested and received authority to administer and enforce the code within their boundaries. The branch provides to all Alberta municipalities administrative and technical advice on building code requirements, enforcement, and material approval. It also assists small municipalities by reviewing plans for and inspecting more complex projects.

The branch develops and distributes bulletins dealing with rulings and director's interpretations of the Building Code. It also distributes annual information bulletins on areas of the code that need further explanation.

The branch develops and conducts training programs for municipal and provincial inspectors, and gives seminars and workshops for individuals and associations involved in the construction, alteration, and occupancy of buildings.

The branch also provides assistance to the Alberta Building Standards Council. The council hears appeals to building inspectors' orders and is an advisor to the Minister of Labour and the department.

1989-90

- The branch examined plans for 2,274 building projects worth an estimated $457 million and involving a total floor area of 831,436 square metres. These figures represent a 37-per-cent increase over 1988-89 in the number of projects handled and a 12.5-per-cent increase in total floor area of buildings covered.

- Forty-seven requests were received for special product and/or system approvals. After review, 12 approvals and 21 new and seven revised Product Listing bulletins were issued.

- Fifty new bulletins were issued and two were revised.

- There were 766 students enrolled in branch courses.

- The branch developed and circulated for public review and comment a proposal to adopt the model National Building Code of Canada 1990, with proposed amendments, as the new Alberta Building Code.

- The branch's Committee for the Review of Building Standards for the Physically Disabled met to review the proposals for the Alberta Building Code 1990 concerning provisions for the physically disabled.

- The Alberta Building Standards Council received 28 appeals.

Electrical Protection Branch

The Electrical Protection Branch develops and maintains standards and programs whereby electrical energy can be generated, distributed, and used safely. The branch strives to minimize the number of electrical accidents and damage to property. The programs are designed and developed to encourage individual and corporate understanding and involvement in order to achieve reasonable electrical safety goals. The branch activities are divided into three major categories: standards development; regulatory programs consisting of inspections and investigations; and an electrical safety education program directed to members of the electrical industry and the public.

Standards Development

The branch participates in the development of national standards and establishes provincial standards and regulations which are recommended for adoption in Alberta. The standards and regulations play an integral role in providing safe electrical equipment, installations, and work practices and procedures for industry and the public.

Regulatory Compliance

The branch implements and monitors electrical safety regulations with the aim of obtaining voluntary compliance with a minimum of government involvement. This program includes inspecting and approving electrical equipment in the market place to ensure that it does not pose a shock or fire hazard; examining and certifying electrical contractors; inspecting all phases of electrical installations; reviewing electrical designs and drawings; issuing wiring permits; and investigating electrical fires and accidents.

Electrical Safety Education

Through its regional offices, the branch conducts seminars to inform the public and industry of electrical hazards and related safety standards. Also, statistics on accident and fire investigations are gathered and distributed to industry and the public.

1989-90

- The branch participated in the development of national safety standards for electrical equipment and was also involved in the committee which developed national rules contained in the new 1990 (16th) edition of the Canadian Electrical Code.

- In association with industry representatives, the branch extensively revised the Oilfield Regulations.

- A quality control program was introduced to monitor the performance of electrical contractors who do large volumes of electrical work. The program includes inspecting a representative sample of the work and, through meetings with the contractor, emphasizing the contractor's responsibility to perform the work properly.

- Some 2,254 or 8.3 per cent fewer inspections were conducted even though 2,310 more permits were issued than in 1988-89. The quality control program assisted in a 3.5-per-cent reduction in inspections covered by permits. A 13-per-cent reduction in approval inspections has occurred since these inspections were turned over to the Canadian Standards Association (CSA), although the branch continues to monitor and coordinate the program. There has been a 72.6-per-cent reduction in utility line construction inspections. Utility companies have submitted construction drawings and are responsible to construct to standards. The branch is notified of all exceptions to the standard types of construction and random inspections are conducted.

- A code inquiry computer search program was developed for the Canadian Electrical Code & Utility Regulations.

- A Master Electrician certification program was created for computerizing the issue and renewal of electrical contractor certificates.

- Regulation changes were prepared for certification of electrical workers to enhance our control of contractors when doing sign installations, communication installations, and building electrical maintenance. The new regulations are to be recommended for adoption along with the new statute.

- Although the existence of the Canadian Electrical Code has resulted in a reduction in seminar activity, more than 1,700 employee hours were devoted to 823 safety seminars and meetings for the electrical industry and the public.

- The Residential & Farmstead Wiring Information Booklet was revised, and 5,000 copies were distributed to the public.

- There were 10 fatalities due to electric shock investigated over the past year as compared to five in the previous year. This increase is within a random trend and range which occurs from year to year.

Elevator and Fixed Conveyances Branch

The Elevator and Fixed Conveyances Branch provides programs which help to ensure a reasonable level of safety for Albertans in their contact with and use of conveyances such as elevators, escalators, and ski lifts and recreational devices such as amusement rides. This is achieved by administering programs under the Elevator and Fixed Conveyances Act including the development and adoption of applicable standards and regulatory compliance programs. Compliance with these standards is obtained through the review of design submissions, inspection of new and existing installations, and accident investigations.

1989-90

- New amusement ride regulations were implemented. These regulations allow for more effective and efficient safety management through design verification requirements for new rides and by facilitating an auditing approach to standards that focus on operating and maintenance practices. A new auditing program was also begun for passengers ropeways such as ski-lifts.

- Drawings and specifications were reviewed covering 255 proposed new installations, a more than 50-per-cent increase over the previous year. Inspections were conducted on 224 new installations during construction to assist engineers, architects, and contractors in meeting accepted standards. Acceptance inspections and tests were conducted prior to the commissioning of 217 new installations. Approximately 5,000 existing installations were inspected to provide reasonable assurance that they were maintained in a safe operating condition.

- Branch inspectors investigated 24 accidents during this reporting period. Some of these accidents were attributed to manufacturing defects and operating procedures including human error.

Fire Prevention Branch

The Fire Prevention Branch creates and maintains a climate of fire-safety in Alberta by reducing the level of fire risk. This task is accomplished with the assistance of 408 municipal fire departments and other agencies involved in fire protection.

There are four categories of branch services: advisory, investigation, program support, and training. The services are offered through the Fire Commissioner's office in Edmonton, six regional offices (Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer,

Lethbridge, Peace River, and St. Paul) and the Alberta Fire Training School (AFTS) in Vermilion.

Advisory Services

Advisory Services presents seminars, conducts meetings, acquires up-to-date training for advisors, and provides course instruction.

Investigation Services

Fire investigators assist rural fire and police departments in determining the causes of incendiary, large loss, and fatal fires.

Program Support Services

Program Support Services collects statistics, disseminates information, and provides the Secretary to the Fire Prevention Council.

Training Services

The Alberta Fire Training School (AFTS) in Vermilion provides essential training to eligible fire service personnel. Areas of instruction include fire fighting, officer, inspection, investigation, public education, service instructor, and industrial fire fighting.

Fire Prevention Council

The Fire Prevention Council is a quasi-judicial body of 11 persons appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council from professional, trade, and safety organizations in Alberta. It resolves appeals of interpretations of the Fire Code.

1989-90

- Municipal administrators and fire department personnel offered 155 seminars. The total attendance was 2,929, an increase of 165 per cent over the previous year.

- Municipal, fire department and industry personnel, 1,053 in total (an increase of 130 per cent over 1988-89), attended meetings organized by fire service advisors. Discussions with municipal and fire department officials focused on master planning as a means of improving fire protection.

- A total of 430 fire alarm/electrical industry personnel attended seminars through community colleges, the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT), the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT), and the Electrical Union and Contractors.

- There was heavy enrolment of fire services advisors in 41 one-week courses at AFTS to keep up-to-date with advances in fire protection. Advisors also shared teaching duties with AFTS staff in the instruction of 28 municipal and industrial courses. At the local level, the advisors coordinated AFTS courses and tested 753 students, a 23-per-cent increase over the previous year.

- A new initiative of Advisory Services is the formation of local fire chief committees which are providing the stimulus and assistance to Municipal Districts, counties, and other municipalities in long and short-range planning for fire protection.

- Of the 377 fires investigated, 31 per cent were incendiary, 46 per cent were accidental, and 23 per cent were of undetermined causes. Compared to the preceding year, prosecutions related to incendiary fires rose by 60 per cent. This is due in part to branch investigators increasing police officials' awareness of the nature of arson.

- The Fire Commissioner and Deputy Commissioners took part in risk management activities with other governments, departments, and agencies. The Commissioner also assisted the Provincial and National Major Industrial Accident Coordinating Committee which advises on matters relating to major accidents or release of dangerous goods.

- The statistics unit compiled fire loss data from 7,776 fires accounting for 46 deaths, 512 injuries, and $103 million in property damage. Fire loss data analysis was computerized with the acquisition of an IBM PS/2 computer used in conjunction with SAS (Statistical Analysis System) software. SAS has enhanced the branch's efficiency in the dissemination of fire statistics and enabled extensive data tabulations in formats desired by fire

departments, the media, research institutes, universities, and the public.

- Three detailed reports, "Fire Fatalities in Alberta," "Arson/Set Fires in Education Facilities in Alberta," and "Fire Injuries in Alberta," were completed with SAS assistance, and additional capabilities of SAS, such as "full-screen-processing" and "applications development" will be explored in the coming year.

- The branch continued to provide organizational support to several major public fire safety events: the annual fire prevention week campaign, the annual Christmas fire safety campaign, participation at the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) Convention and the Motel Association Convention, and editorial assistance to "Fire News," the branch newsletter.

- The branch, in cooperation with the print media, launched two major public fire education campaigns. The fire prevention week campaign in October focused on the growing problem of fires started by children playing with matches or lighters. A pamphlet entitled "Fire.....It's No Game for Children to Play" was developed with the assistance of experts on juvenile fire setters. A total of 120,000 copies of this pamphlet and 300,000 pamphlets covering other fire safety topics were distributed to the public, and a fire safety film titled "Fire Power" was broadcast across Alberta in cooperation with ACCESS Educational Television Network during the October campaign.

The Christmas fire safety campaign focused on the importance of fire causes other than those associated with Christmas tree lights as evidenced by fire data analysis.

- In order to inform newly elected municipal officials attending the November 1989 AUMA Convention, the branch developed an information package entitled "Services Offered to Municipalities" for distribution to convention delegates. Also, delegates attending the Motel Association Convention held in April 1989 were given information on fire safety in the lodging industry under the theme "Are Your Guests Fire Safe Tonight?".

- The twice yearly newsletter "Fire News" increased its circulation from 2,000 to 2,500 copies per issue. The publication contains articles from experts in a variety of fire protection areas and information of current importance on fire safety.

- A total of 2,450 candidates attended AFTS courses.

- New facilities were officially opened at AFTS. Costing $4.5 million, these facilities include a simulation lab/theatre, and labs dealing with fixed extinguishing systems, automatic sprinklers, dangerous goods, pumps, portable fire extinguishers, and fire alarm systems.

- The council heard 26 appeals to orders issued pursuant to the Fire Prevention Act by municipal and branch fire inspectors. It also provided expertise in developing a report on residential sprinklers for initial presentation to the Minister of Labour and subsequently to the Economic Development Committee at the Legislature, and reviewed the proposed General Safety Services Division Statutes.

Plumbing and Gas Safety Services Branch

The Plumbing and Gas Safety Services Branch assists in creating a climate in which individuals and plumbing and gas industries in Alberta can fulfil their responsibilities in maintaining a safe environment for the public with respect to plumbing and gas installations, sewage disposal systems, and the distribution and use of natural and propane gases including the conversion of highway vehicles to propane and natural gas motor fuels. The branch administers the Plumbing and Drainage Act, the Gas Protection Act, and regulations governing the acceptance, installation, alteration, repair, and maintenance of plumbing and gas systems.

1989-90

- The branch increased its involvement with the various national and provincial standards, codes, and industry associations concerned with public and industry safety. The branch's involvement included the Canadian Gas Association, the Interprovincial Gas Advisory Council, the Canadian Standards Association, the Federation of Alberta Gas Co-ops, the Rural Gas Safety and Technical Advisory Committee, the Alberta Natural Gas Vehicle Committee, and various others. Considerably more emphasis was placed on interaction with other municipal inspection authorities, trade schools, and other industry-related government departments such as Health, Environment, Transportation and Utilities, and Career Development and Employment. The branch also continues to maintain input into the Apprenticeship Gas fitter/Plumber/Pipe fitter Trade Committees.

- There was additional development and upgrading of computer programs to enhance safety program delivery and improve branch operating efficiency. This project involved the move to decentralize the issuance of permits from Edmonton Head Office to all 12 of the branch's regional offices, making this service more convenient for the public.

- The branch reviewed the National Canadian Plumbing Code to determine if it would be in the interest of public safety to adopt the National Code in place of the present Alberta Plumbing and Drainage Act Regulations. Benefits would include uniformity of installation standards throughout Canada, the extensive technical and trade expertise derived from national committee members, and interprovincial trade certification. The concept of a National Plumbing Code has received favourable response from industry, trade schools, and municipal inspection authorities.

- In conjunction with the review of the Canadian Plumbing Code, the branch is also conducting a review of Private Sewage Disposal Regulations. As the Canadian Plumbing Code does not address private sewage disposal, these regulations will become a stand-alone regulation if the Canadian Plumbing Code is adopted. With the ever increasing concerns pertaining to Health and Environment, the review of the Private Sewage Disposal Regulations and the Canadian Plumbing Code Regulations is timely.

- Certificates were given to 542 contractors allowing them to obtain permits; 30,324 permits covering plumbing, natural gas, and propane installations were issued to qualified plumbers, gas fitters, and home-owners.

- The branch carried out 34,915 monitoring inspections on plumbing and gas systems in new and existing buildings and conducted 265 training and safety seminars while continuing to provide a consulting service to both industry and the public. In addition, the branch continued to administer an approval program for the testing of unique equipment for which it is impractical for the applicant to obtain certification from a national laboratory, such as the Canadian Standards Association.

Support Services Division

The Support Services Division provides professional advice and support, and consults with clients regarding finance and financial issues, human resource management, administration, systems and their development and maintenance, research and analysis, information and information management. In addition to Alberta Labour, the division provides services to the Personnel Administration Office, the Human Rights Commission, the Labour Relations Board, the Alberta Women's Secretariat, the Advisory Council on Women's Issues, and the public.

Highlights: 1989-90

- The duties of the Assistant Deputy Minister were expanded to include the International Human Rights Liaison function involving coordinating the position of Alberta Government departments in regard to commitments under the various international human rights instruments. In this capacity, the Assistant Deputy Minister was part of a Canadian delegation to the United Nations in New York.

- The Finance and Administration Branch completed its reorganization which resulted in the merger of two branches and the streamlining of operations. The branch continued the development of education sessions adding a new session on travel expense claims.

- The Human Resource Services Branch implemented two new information systems, the Absence Management/Overtime and Vacation Entitlement systems. In addition, the branch coordinated and facilitated the review and revision of the management performance appraisal system.

- The Information Services Branch began a project to privatize the sale and distribution of its Alberta Labour Relations Precedents Index Series, as well as negotiating with Q-L Systems to make its databases available nationally.

- The major activity of the Planning and Research Branch was the continued development and implementation of the Integrated Bargaining Information System, a data base of information related to collective bargaining. Also, the Legislative Planning function was added to the branch with its primary focus being the General Safety Services reorganization.

- The Systems Branch completed installation of a local area network in head office giving all hardware in the building the potential to be linked, and the development of centralized data bases is possible. The branch assisted in electronic data processing initiatives related to the General Safety Services Reorganization and provided support for the large number of systems based projects in both the division and the department.

Finance and Administration Branch

The Finance and Administration Branch provides a wide range of financial and administrative support services to Alberta Labour, the Personnel Administration Office, the Women's Secretariat, and the Advisory Council on Women's Issues. It ensures that the department's financial systems and procedures are user responsive and effective while observing the need for internal control and compliance with cross-government standards.

Services are delivered through three sections: Finance and Accommodation, Administrative Support Services, and Financial Management Services.

Finance and Accommodation records and processes all payable and revenue transactions including accounting services for the Personnel Administration Office Revolving Fund and the various employee benefit regulated funds. The section also coordinates the acquisition, maintenance, and renovation of space and related facilities such as telecommunications and furniture. It develops the budget request to Public Works, Supply and Services for these services and represents all clients in discussions with that department.

Administrative Support coordinates the purchasing and acquisition functions of the department and other client organizations. The section is exploring decentralization options to streamline the departmental processes and provide a more responsive service to users. It represents clients in transactions with Central Vehicle Services and Risk Management Insurance, and is also responsible for maintaining the inventory program.

In developing budgetary and forecasting systems, Financial Management delivers consultative and advisory services to management on financial matters and assists them with financial control. It coordinates budget preparation and submissions, and provides contract administration services.

1989-90

- Financial Management Services was merged with the branch to provide more effective use of resources and improve services to clients.

Human Resource Services Branch

The Human Resource Services Branch assists department managers through consultation and provision of services that are consistent with legislative requirements and that recognize the business needs of the department. The branch supports the human resource needs of the department by providing expertise in the areas of recruitment and selection, job evaluation, position classification, training and development, the interpretation and application of the collective agreement, human resource planning, reorganization strategies, pay and benefits administration, coordination of occupational health and safety, and resolution of employee relations issues.

1989-90

- The branch conducted a comprehensive review and assessment of all General Safety Services Division (GSS) administrative positions to identify opportunities for office automation and greater administrative efficiency. The branch continued to provide consultation to GSS in its reorganization activities and participated on the divisional training Transitional Operations Committee. A report outlining the process for transition was presented to the GSS management retreat in the fall of 1989.

- The Absence Management, Overtime and Vacation Entitlement reporting systems developed in 1988-89 were finalized and fully implemented. The systems allow management to monitor absences, maintain benefit entitlement information, and utilize overtime information for budget and manpower planning. Future enhancements to these systems will provide a trend analysis and a basis

for absence management within the department. The branch presented several education sessions on the provisions of the Master Agreement dealing with hours of work.

- The establishment of the new Administrative Support series resulted in the review of all 187 administrative support positions in the department. This project will be completed by the end of May 1990.

- The department undertook a major initiative to review and revise the management performance appraisal system. A report to executive management was prepared.

Information Services Branch

The Information Services Branch provides the resources and services required to meet the department's research and information needs through two units: Library Services and Records Management.

The Records Management Unit organizes, classifies, and distributes department and Personnel Administration Office (PAO) records.

The Library Services Unit collects, organizes, and disseminates information and supports the department's educational programs. It also provides research and information services to the department, the PAO, and external clients including other government departments, libraries, research agencies, labour groups, employers, human rights agencies, students and academics, members of the legal profession, and the public. Requests for information are received in person, by mail, by telephone, by facsimile transmission, or are part of an on-going SDI (select dissemination of information) program.

1989-90

- The Records Management Unit distributed more than 650 Personnel Administration Office manuals throughout the province bringing the total number distributed to 13,642. The unit also extended consultative services to the Women's Secretariat and added more than 3,500 records to the computer retrieval information system (CRIS). The department's micrographics program produced more than 449,470 images.

- Requests for information increased by 20 per cent to 3,307 enquiries answered; 913 inter-library loan requests were processed and 2,869 documents loaned.

- The audiovisual section received 2,829 requests and circulated 2,776 films and videotapes, a 29-per-cent increase, to other departments, to schools, colleges, hospital, daycare centres, and companies.

- There were more than 250 subscribers to the Alberta Labour Relations Precedents Index Series. Approximately 370 awards and decisions were added to the series.

Planning and Research Branch

The Planning and Research Branch is responsible for policy analysis, planning support, legislative planning, research, and the development, analysis, and distribution of statistics for the department. The branch represents the department on inter-departmental and federal-provincial committees in relation to those functions.

1989-90

- The Statistics and Information Unit was primarily involved with the development and implementation of a new computer database called the Integrated Bargaining Information System (IBIS). The system brings negotiating tracking, wage settlement analysis, negotiated benefits, and dispute information into one automated source. The unit analyzed and processed 603 collective agreements, conducted several surveys related to

settlements and disputes, and responded to public requests for labour relations information.

- The Policy and Planning Services Unit reviewed and analyzed trends, issues, and reports having implications for the department. The unit prepared reports and coordinated the responses to meet Alberta's obligations under various International Labour Office and United Nations conventions.

- A legislative planning service was added to the branch. The primary focus was legislation for the strategic plan of the department's General Safety Services Division.

Public Affairs Branch

The Public Affairs Branch helps the department achieve its goals through provision of public relations counsel and communications services. Branch staff design communications programs to present information on the policies, programs, and services of Alberta Labour, the Alberta Human Rights Commission, the Labour Relations Board, and the Personnel Administration Office.

The public affairs director, three public affairs officers, public affairs manager, and media relations advisor work closely with the staff of Alberta Labour and the Public Affairs Bureau, which offers additional communications expertise.

1989-90

- The branch provided communications plans; media relations services including news conferences, news releases, liaison work with media, and a daily news clipping service; graphic designs; printed materials including newsletters, annual reports, brochures and posters; audio-visuals; photography; displays; and speeches.

Systems Branch

The Systems Branch coordinates and provides usage of mainframe and microcomputer hardware and software as well as centralized word processing facilities.

The branch coordinates and controls the development and execution of the annual departmental data processing plan, including: the acquisition of word and data processing hardware and software; the coordination of the design, development, and implementation of approved automated data processing systems; and, where feasible, performs maintenance tasks for operational systems.

1989-90

- The department's efforts to develop and expedite an effective, comprehensive Electronic Data Process (EDP) strategic direction led to the initiation and/or completion of the following major projects:

- The on-line Public Works Supply and Services mainframe based Pressure and Equipment Registry System became operational.

- A local area network configuration complete with backbone architecture, wiring closets, bridges, and cabling to support the overall departmental communications network was installed.

- The System Requirement Definition (SRD) was implemented and a prototype developed for the System Design Alternatives (SDA) phases of an Integrated Risk Management System for the General Safety Services Division.

- The Integrated Bargaining Information System with regional office access was prepared for implementation.

- The branch established a "modified tool crib" environment to offset ever increasing departmental equipment maintenance costs.

Tables

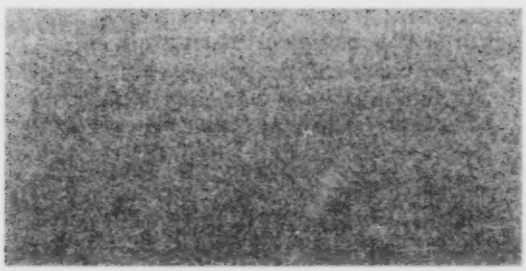
Labour Division

Employment Pensions
Employment Standards
Mediation Services

General Safety Services Division

Boilers and Pressure Vessels
Building Standards
Electrical Protection
Elevator and Fixed Conveyances
Fire Prevention
Plumbing and Gas Safety Services

For full financial statements of departmental activities in 1989-90 please refer to the Public Accounts of the Government of Alberta.



Employment Pensions Branch

Surplus Refunds

Surplus refunds to employers from pension plans supervised by the Employment Pensions Branch during the fiscal years ending March 31 in 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989 and 1990 (in millions of dollars).

Year	Continuing Plans	$	Discontinuing Plans	$	Total Plans	$
1986	25	80.0	19	1.9	44	81.9
1987	7	59.4	21	5.9	28	65.3
1988	4	.9	27	6.2	31	7.1
1989	2	7.6	14	1.7	16	9.3
1990	2	.3	9	5.5	11	5.8

Employment Standards Branch

	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
Investigation and Recovery Proceedings			
Claims registered	8,272	7,138	9,119
Money collected	$2,470,625	$2,260,320	$3,075,546

	1988-89	1989-90
Special Employment Programs		
Oil well servicing & trucking (pay plans)	40	44
Overtime agreements	111	210
Extended hours of work	6	2
Contracts of employment	138	5
Scheme of Employment		
Group Homes	19	21
Homemakers	13	8
Total	327	290

Educational Services Program

	Numbers Held		Attendance	
Type of Activity	1988-89	1989-90	1988-89	1989-90
Workshop Wages	89	159	2,255	4121
World of Work	36	29	1,244	774
Speaking engagement	95	125	1,981	2,384
Other - trade shows	5	3	2,149	1,952
Total	225	316	7,629	9,231

Umpire System Activity Report

	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
(a) Appeals:			
Number of appeals	516	600	633
Appeals from previous year	529	138	304
Total	1,045	738	937

	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
(b) Disposition of Appeals:			
Confirmed	591	185	281
Varied	61	63	84
Revoked	42	65	122
Abandoned & confirmed	143	48	103
Appeals denied	57	73	44
Decision reserved	—	—	—
Appeal not yet heard	151	304	303
Total	1,045	738	937

Industrial Wages Security Act

Money collected under the Act	$99,017.69	$105,148.10	$128,289.31
Employees benefiting in lumber industry	346	310	472
Amount of security held at year end by the lumbering industry	$988,855.87	$938,355.74	$797,941.04
Active exemption certificates lumbering industry	79	89	92

Mediation Services Branch

	1988-89	1989-90
Mediation		
(a) Disputes pending to year end:		
Labour Relations Act	37	29
Labour Relations Code	—	5
Subtotal	37	34
(b) Mediators Appointed:		
Labour Relations Act	108	28
Labour Relations Code	8	96
Subtotal	116	124
*Total Disputes involving Mediators**	153	158
Disposition of Disputes		
Settled at Mediation:		
Labour Relations Act	88	44
Labour Relations Code	2	66
Voluntary Arbitration	0	0
Police Officers Arbitration	2	0
Compulsory Arbitration Boards	5	2
Others	0	7
Disputes pending at year end:		
Labour Relations Act	40	5
Labour Relations Code	4	27
Strikes and Lockouts:		
Strikes	10	4
Lockouts	2	1
Strike-Lockout (simultaneous)	0	2
Total Disputes	153	158
Preventive Mediation		
First Agreement Orientation**	51	n/a
Grievance Mediation	49	54
Labour Management Committees	14	2
Joint Training	5	1
Relationship by Objectives	0	0
Consultation, Education***	85	5

* Good Offices appointments in colleges and universities involved 5 mediators, a figure not included in the statistics.

** First Agreement Orientation is now provided to only those high profile parties who have never been parties to a collective bargaining process.

*** The figure of 85 represents consultations as a result of Labour Code proclamation.

Boilers and Pressure Vessels Branch

	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
Designs processed			
Designs submitted	6,649	7,801	7,450
Designs accepted	4,261	4,548	5,073
Designs rejected	365	436	342
Designs revised	1,528	1,182	1,678
Quality control systems registered			
Certificates issued and renewals	131	218	197
Companies with registered quality control systems	396	495	501
Inspections			
High pressure boilers	1,717	1,850	n/a
Low pressure boilers	3,611	3,104	n/a
Receivers	5,327	5,131	n/a
Heat exchangers	2,261	1,820	n/a
Process vessels	7,582	7,682	n/a
Miscellaneous	359	387	n/a
Progress inspections	29,343	30,213	n/a
Total	50,200	50,187	n/a
Boilers and pressure vessels constructed in Alberta	5,975	7,846	7,003
Potential hazards found in inspections			
Safety valve insufficient capacity or inoperable	935	716	n/a
Low water fuel cut-off inoperable	125	135	n/a
Free air inlet inadequate	5	14	n/a
Heating surface of boiler heavily scaled	276	223	n/a
Severe corrosion requiring repairs	1,367	1,089	n/a
Miscellaneous unsafe conditions	451	532	n/a
Defective boiler and pressure vessel operating - limit controls	49	63	n/a
Boiler water gauge glass inoperable	28	79	n/a
Accessories requiring repair	81	74	n/a
Condemned or ordered out of service	9	9	n/a
Total	3,326	2,934	n/a
Examinations conducted			
Engineers and building operators	5,536	5,490	5,692
Pressure welders	3,573	752	726
Examinations passed:			
Engineers and building operators	4,617	4,656	4,610
Pressure welders	3,189	405	432
Accidents investigated			
Accidents	35	22	33
Injuries	2	6	6
Fatalities	2	3	—

Building Standards Branch

	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
General Statistics			
(a) Building Plans Examined			
Assembly	263	249	332
Institutional	20	28	24
Residential:			
General	117	78	84
Single Family	210	259	415
Business and personal services	130	94	104
Mercantile	86	77	66
Industrial	213	243	244
Total	1,039	1,028	1,269
(b) Floor area (m)			
Assembly	179,562	191,008	306,363
Institutional	48,217	60,267	53,543
Residential:			
General	127,967	86,200	56,330
Single Family	36,175	50,744	87,701
Business and personal services	34,929	49,870	84,400
Mercantile	44,608	59,964	58,208
Industrial	158,881	240,696	184,891
Total	630,339	738,749	831,436
- Estimated value	$347,000,000	$406,000,000	$457,290,000
- Inspections	2,541	1,569	1,501
Mechanical Statistics			
(a) Building Plans Examined			
Assembly	174	172	214
Institutional	16	21	24
Residential:			
General	32	35	42
Single Family	8	9	135
Business and personal services	45	48	63
Mercantile	54	41	42
Industrial	91	122	124
Total	420	448	644

	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
(b) Floor area (m)			
Assembly	144,265	227,080	298,529
Institutional	37,763	44,571	34,549
Residential:			
General	32,011	43,908	49,238
Single Family	2,826	2,923	31,908
Business and personal services	32,255	33,340	49,098
Mercantile	77,981	44,908	72,031
Industrial	117,304	137,717	147,443
Total	444,405	534,447	682,796
- Inspections	1,805	872	595
***Total Inspections** (General and Mechanical)*	4,346	2,441	2,096
Plans Examined	1,467	1,658	2,274
Technical Program Statistics			
- Training and Education Programs			
Students enrolled in courses	298	598	766
Assignments marked	666	1,248	1,197
Examinations taken	26	88	93
Seminars/workshops given	19	16	20
- Appeals to Alberta Building Standards Council			
Appeals received	11	22	28
Orders confirmed	4	14	13
Orders revoked	2	1	3
Orders varied	2	5	7
Appeals withdrawn	3	2	5
- Products and systems approvals			
Total requests	84	52	47
Approvals Issued	22	10	12
Product listing bulletins (new)	27	13	21
Product Listings (revised)		9	7
Standata Bulletins (new)	10	10	50
Standata Bulletins (revised)	4	9	2

Electrical Protection Branch

	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
Electrical permits issued	29,356	30,280	32,590
Inspections			
Covered by permits	24,496	20,731	19,993
Not covered by permits	1,909	1,128	1,591
Electrical equipment approvals	9,285	3,649	3,178
Electrical utility installations	2,208	1,995	547
Total	37,898	27,503	25,309
Master electrician certification			
Master electrician certificates issued	2,744	2,735	2,747
Master examinations written	447	308	299
Accident and fire investigations			
Fatal accidents	7	5	10
Non-fatal accidents	72	59	61
Fires	69	39	55
Seminars and meetings	1,410	1,101	823
Technical interviews	69,462	65,512	62,552

Elevator and Fixed Conveyances Branch

	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
Inspections of Existing Installations			
Elevators and related equipment	3,740	3,457	3,168
Passenger Ropeways (ski lifts)	138	145	157
Amusement Rides	384	334	369
Elevators (Canada Labour)	69	79	60
Reinspections (all classes)	1,129	828	904
Special Inspections (all classes)	47	41	45
Total	5,507	4,884	4,703
Acceptance Inspections and Tests of New Installations			
Elevators and related equipment	283	207	201
Passenger ropeways	4	8	6
Amusement Rides	2	1	10
Preliminary inspections (all classes)	303	251	224
Total	592	467	441
Design Reviews	195	168	255
Accident Investigations	17	22	24
Inspections Invoiced	3,781	3,834	3,486

Fire Prevention Branch

	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
Fire Services			
Building fire inspections	2,930	1,902	1,227
- Recommendations to correct hazards	9,608	3,804	n/a
- Orders issued	23	29	32
Plans examined	237	316	149
Inventories of fire department equipment	1,307	1,003	1,208
Testing of fire fighting personnel	—	—	19
Meetings and lectures	—	—	83
- Attendance	3,978	6,347	n/a
Fire Investigations			
Investigations by the branch	379	359	377
Investigations by other agencies	791	880	763
Total	1,170	1,239	1,140
Causes of fires investigated			
Arson	856	980	839
Accidental or unknown	310	252	293
Under investigation	4	7	8
Total	1,170	1,239	1,140
Fire Service Personnel Training: Attendance Municipal Fire Department Personnel			
(a) Alberta Fire Training School (AFTS) municipal training programs.			
Part I Firefighter	132	81	75
Part II Firefighter	96	64	60
Part III Firefighter	43	42	40
Part IV Firefighter	32	21	38
Part III and IV Practical	—	**17	12
Part V Firefighter	31	30	31
Part VI Firefighter	21	34	30
Part V and VI Practical	—	**20	—
Pump Operator "A"	88	76	63
Pump Operator "B"	21	14	—
Fire Prevention for the Firefighter	15	10	18
Vehicle Extrication and Trench Rescue	20	19	21
Dangerous Goods Incident Control	**31	39	40
Trench Rescue	**13	—	—
Fire Officer C1 Building Construction	12	10	18
Fire Officer C2 Leadership	12	16	16
Fire Officer C3 Pre-emergency	11	7	14
Fire Officer C4 Fire Suppression and Safety	12	6	8
Fire Officer C5 Strategy and Tactics (Theory)	34	37	35

	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
Fire Officer C6 Strategy and Tactics (Practical)	10	13	12
Fire Officer C7 Fire Investigation	20	23	24
Fire Officer C8 Fire Prevention & Fire Protection Equipment	9	7	17
Fire Officer C9 Fire Prevention, Inspection & Public Education	7	10	20
Fire Officer C10 Human Relations & Management	**17	17	18
Fire Officer C11 Dangerous Goods Incident Command	—	**10	18
Fire Officer C12 Technical Writing Skills	13	14	18
Fire Officer C15 Public Relations & Public Speaking	13	12	15
Fire Inspector DA Building Codes and Standards	24	21	20
Fire Inspector DB Alberta Fire Code	20	19	17
Fire Inspector DI Water Supply	5	9	11
Fire Inspector D2 Standpipe Sprinkler Systems	14	11	36
Fire Services Instructor EI	31	28	26
Fire Services Instructor E2	19	17	18
Fire Services Instructor E3	10	9	8
Subtotal (a)	836	763	797
(b) AFTS Extension Courses municipal presentation:			
Part I Firefighter	287	317	376
Part II Firefighter	102	130	182
Pump Operator "A"	13	69	68
Fire Prevention for the Firefighter	59	69	14
Vehicle Extrication	**25	65	55
Dangerous Goods Incident Control	—	**47	18
Parts III & IV Firefighter (Theory)	—	**17	15
Parts V & VI Firefighter (Theory)	—	**20	—
Fire Officer C1 Building Construction	—	**50	38
Fire Officer C2 Leadership	19	14	21
Fire Officer C3 Pre-emergency Planning	14	38	43
Fire Officer C4 Suppression	—	**8	26
Fire Officer C5 Strategy and Tactics (Theory)	—	33	181
Fire Officer C6 Strategy and Tactics (Practical)	—	—	11
Fire Officer C7 Investigation	72	42	21
Fire Officer C8 Fire Protection Equipment	22	—	—
Fire Officer C9 Fire Prevention	—	—	—
Fire Officer C10 Management	—	**39	26
Fire Officer C12 Technical Writing Skills	12	—	38
Fire Officer C15 Public Relations and Public Speaking	36	—	—
Fire Inspector DA Building Codes and Standards	—	—	***17
Fire Inspector DB Alberta Fire Code	—	—	***17
Fire Inspector D2 Sprinkler and Standpipe Systems	12	—	—
Fire Services Instructor EI	11	15	5
Fire Services Instructor E2	—	—	23
Subtotal (b)	684	973	1,195
Total (a) & (b)	1,520	1,736	1,992

	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
AFTS Industrial Training Programs: Attendance - Industrial Fire Department Personnel			
Part I Industrial Firefighter	100	129	105
Part I-A Industrial Firefighter	123	108	115
Part I-B Industrial Firefighter	85	102	60
Part II Industrial Firefighter	81	84	81
Part III Industrial Firefighter	75	74	97
Aircraft Crash/Fire Response (Dry Chemical)	—	—	15
Total	464	497	473
Total - Fire Service Personnel Training and AFTS Industrial Training Programs	1,984	2,233	2,467
Branch Field Programs: Attendance	84	23	114

* Implemented in 1987-88.

** Implemented in 1988-89.

*** Implemented in 1989-90.

Plumbing and Gas Safety Services Branch

	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
Plumbing and gas permits issued			
Plumbing permits	5,161	5,016	5,937
Private sewage disposal permits	2,122	2,110	2,625
Subtotal	7,283	7,126	8,562
Natural gas permits	16,147	15,844	17,379
Propane gas permits	4,041	4,575	4,383
Subtotal	20,188	20,419	21,762
Total	27,471	27,545	30,324
Field Inspections			
Plumbing inspections covered by permits	9,170	9,886*	9,703
Plumbing inspections not covered by permits	2,905	2,260*	3,012
Subtotal	12,075	12,146*	12,715
Gas installations covered by permits	19,731	18,662*	18,001
Gas installations not covered by permits	4,083	2,873*	3,636
Approval of domestic/commercial gas appliances	294	312	371
Approval of industrial gas equipment	72	62	66
Approval of gas equipment tests	131	167	126
Subtotal	24,311	22,076*	22,200
Total	36,386	34,222	34,915
Workers' certificates issued			
Gasfitter certificates	479	385	486
Sewage system contractors' certificates	25	63	56
Total	504	448	542
Seminar activities			
Tradesmen seminars	97	104	72
Meetings	153	191	193
Total	250	295	265

	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
Examinations administered	31	108	50
Plans examined	413	552	417
Accident Investigations			
Accidents reported	38	38	56
Accidents investigated	38	38	56
Fatal accidents	1	1	4
Injury accidents	13	26	32

* Revised figures.